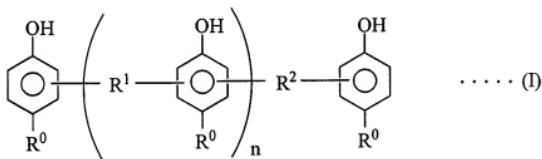


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A rubber composition characterized by compounding a rubber component consisting of natural rubber and/or polyisoprene rubber with a phenolic resin represented by the following formula (I):



(wherein R⁰ is a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, a phenyl group or a methylo group, and each of R¹ and R² is an arylene group, ~~an alkylene group having a carbon number of 2-10~~, an aralkylene group, a cycloalkenylene group or a cycloalkadienylene group, and n is 0-10).

2. (original): A rubber composition according to claim 1, wherein each of R¹ and R² in the formula (I) is a xylylene group.

3. (original): A rubber composition according to claim 1, wherein each of R¹ and R² in the formula (I) is [1,1'-biphenyl]-4,4'-dimethylene group.

4. (previously presented): A rubber composition according to claim 1, wherein R⁰ in the formula (I) is a hydrogen atom.

5. (previously presented): A rubber composition according to claim 1, wherein the compounding amount of the phenolic resin of the formula (I) is 1-30 parts by mass per 100 parts by mass of the rubber component.

6. (original): A rubber composition according to claim 5, wherein the compounding amount of the phenolic resin of the formula (I) is 1-10 parts by mass per 100 parts by mass of the rubber component.

7. (original): A rubber composition according to claim 1, wherein a hardening agent as a methylene donor is contained in the rubber composition at an amount corresponding to 1-30% by mass of the phenolic resin of the formula (I).

8. (original): A rubber composition according to claim 7, wherein the hardening agent is hexamethylene tetramine.

9. (previously presented): A rubber composition according to claim 2, wherein R⁰ in the formula (I) is a hydrogen atom.

10. (previously presented): A rubber composition according to claim 3, wherein R⁰ in the formula (I) is a hydrogen atom.

11. (previously presented): A rubber composition according to claim 2, wherein the compounding amount of the phenolic resin of the formula (I) is 1-30 parts by mass per 100 parts by mass of the rubber component.

12. (previously presented): A rubber composition according to claim 3, wherein the compounding amount of the phenolic resin of the formula (I) is 1-30 parts by mass per 100 parts by mass of the rubber component.

13. (previously presented): A rubber composition according to claim 4, wherein the compounding amount of the phenolic resin of the formula (I) is 1-30 parts by mass per 100 parts by mass of the rubber component.

14. (previously presented): A rubber composition according to claim 9, wherein the compounding amount of the phenolic resin of the formula (I) is 1-30 parts by mass per 100 parts by mass of the rubber component.

15. (previously presented): A rubber composition according to claim 10, wherein the compounding amount of the phenolic resin of the formula (I) is 1-30 parts by mass per 100 parts by mass of the rubber component.